

The Mission: To ensure that students are effective users and producers of information and ideas

Newsletter | May-June 2015 | Issue #4

Table of Contents

Reflection and Challenge!	1
Professional Learning Opportunities	2
New Tool for Accessing Professional Learning.....	2
MIET Tech Days	2
MLA School Library Division Retreat – SAVE THE DATE! - August 11, 2015.....	2
#MTedchat	3
Montana TL Digital Blast Archive and Resources Course:	3
FROM MSL	3
EBSCO Databases	3
Twitter Highlights from @cbartow.....	3
Connect With Your Professional Organizations.....	4
Contact Information.....	4
Thumbs Up/Thumbs Down:	4
Montana Library/Media Program.....	4

Reflection and Challenge!

I haven't forgotten the CHALLENGE to host a "Day in the Life of Libraries" workshop in April's newsletter! I hope that some of you are considering hosting a regional event. Plans are already underway for an event next fall in the southeast/south central part of the state. I hope to hear from all of the corners of our vast state. If you are interested in hosting your own "Day in the Life of Libraries" please contact me (cbartow@mt.gov). I will arrange for OPI renewal units and help with planning if you are willing to host the meeting. Our profession and our school library programs are only as strong as the support and strength we can lend each other. Please consider stepping up and providing a place to connect with other teacher-librarians.

Summer is upon us. I hope that you have a chance to recharge your personal and professional batteries over the summer. There are a lot of great workshops and events around the state. I hope to see many of you in August for the School Library Division Retreat (more details below). Stack up those books you've wanted to read all year or cue them up in your e-Reader!

Take some time to reflect and report out on the successes you've had this year. Think about who needs to know about the difference the library program has made for your school—and show them the evidence. I strongly urge each of you to form an advisory committee for next year and explore your school's priorities and how the school library program can STRENGTHEN the support each student and teacher receives as a result of the efforts of the teacher-librarian and the resources of the school library. If your colleagues don't know what you've done and how

it can help them, your efforts may not have the impact you intend. Most importantly, make a commitment to creating the best school library program possible. Our kids are counting on teacher-librarians to lead the way to meaningful and relevant school experiences.

Best,



Professional Learning Opportunities

New Tool for Accessing Professional Learning

The [OPI Content Standards and Instruction website](#) was recently updated with a design focused on bringing you information about Montana's academic standards and professional learning. As part of that process, we have been working to bring Montana schools information about statewide professional learning in one easily accessible location. The CSI team is excited to announce that we have accomplished this goal through the development of the [OPI Professional Learning Opportunities Portal](#).

The portal is ready for you to explore at www.mtplportal.org or by accessing CSI's [Professional Learning page!](#)

Some of the entries in the Events Calendar include:

MIET Tech Days

June 23-24 Registration is available online now. Check out the courses and full descriptions. Only \$100 for 16 hours of renewal units (lunch included both days), plus the opportunity to earn two master's level college credits for an additional \$200.

Registration goes up to \$125 after the May 22 early bird deadline. Microsoft Innovator Educator Becky Keene is coming with classes about Microsoft tools for educators, Office Mix and Office 365.

Questions? Contact Katie Kotynski, katiekotynski@gmail.com

<http://miettechdays.weebly.com>

MLA School Library Division Retreat – SAVE THE DATE! - August 11, 2015

MLA Exec. Director Debbi Kramer let the retreat organizers know that you may sign up for the August MLA School Library Division Retreat and Renew Your Membership now. **She will apply any renewals paid after May 1 to the 2015-16 membership year.**

Location: Chief Joseph Middle School Library, 4255 Kimberwicke Street, Bozeman

Please go to <http://mtlib.org/Conferences/default.asp> to view the program and download the registration form.

Questions? Contact Niki Keuch niki.keuch@bsd7.org



Montana Library Association

Montana's Libraries from the Mountains to Plains

#MTedchat: 8:00 p.m., every Tuesday. Live Twitter chat for, with, and moderated by Montana educators. Colleagues from across the nation join in, with connections to Idaho, Wyoming, South Dakota, and other neighboring states. Go to <https://sites.google.com/site/mtedchat/> to view the archives, suggest new topics and watch the Tweets roll by.



Montana TL Digital Blast Archive and Resources Course: Sign up for a FREE course for teacher-librarians with the Montana Digital Professional Learning Network. Earn five OPI renewal units with the Montana TL Digital Media Blast Archive and Resources online course. Go to <http://www.mdpln.org> to sign up.

FROM MSL

EBSCO Databases

EBSCO will replace the Kids Search, Searchasaurus, and Student Research Center interfaces currently available through our statewide contract with a new interface, called Explora, in January 2016 (the deadline has been extended). Explora provides different search experiences for public libraries, elementary school libraries, and middle school libraries.



Key features are: *More visual, user-friendly design *Single search box to simplify the search process *Easy-to-browse categories organized by popular topics *Topic overviews that provide starting points for research *Lexile Reading Level limiters

Lisa Dennis from EBSCO led two trainings in May. Recordings of the sessions will be made available on the MSL Vimeo channel <https://vimeo.com/channels/403784>

Your library's customized links for all of the databases are now available in the [Montana Library Directory](#) under "View EBSCO Databases Access." [Promotional materials and web graphics](#) for all of the Reference Centers, including Auto Repair, Hobbies & Crafts, Home Improvement, and Small Engine Repair, are available on the EBSCO Support website. The EBSCO database suite is available at no cost to all Montana libraries, through funding from the Montana Legislature.

Please be in touch if you have questions about accessing or making use of your EBSCO databases.
Cara Orban, Statewide Projects Librarian | [Montana State Library](#) | corban@mt.gov | 406.444.5350

Twitter Highlights from @cbartow

- The Danger of Pockets of Wow <http://doug-johnson.squarespace.com/blue-skunk-blog/2015/5/21/the-danger-of-pockets-of-wow.html> #NCCEchat #tlchat #MTedchat Are you a pocket of "Wow?"
- Q&A With Sir Ken Robinson - Education Week <http://t.co/TIAifjF5Mc> via @educationweek #MTedchat #NCCEchat
- MT TL Digital Media Blast view the whole series or MT TLs can sign up for the course <https://t.co/lARcp7T1Xm> #MTedchat #NCCEchat
- @AuntyTech Library Grits: Repackaging skills bit.ly/1bWD7Hx #tlchat
- teachingthecore.org is a great resource to answer "What does it look like?" #CCSSForward #NCCEchat #MTedchat
- Legislative Relationships: A Senator and a Teacher - Rick Hess Straight Up - Education Week #MTedchat #NCCEchat <http://t.co/r3oR6ugMx3>

Connect With Your Professional Organizations

- Montana Library Association <http://mtlib.org>
- Montana Council for Computers and Technology in Education <http://www.mcceonline.org/>

Contact Information

Colet Bartow | cbartow@mt.gov | 406-444-3583 | Twitter: @cbartow

OPI Library Media Web page: <http://opi.mt.gov/Curriculum/LibMedia/index.html>

Montana Teacher-Librarian Google site: <https://sites.google.com/site/montanateacherlibrarian/home>

Thumbs Up/Thumbs Down: let me know what you think with this quick feedback form – <http://goo.gl/forms/zUS06UTJoM>

Montana Library/Media Program ([ARM 10.55.1801](#))

The school library media program is essential in creating independent learners who are efficient consumers and producers of information. By using a variety of information formats, focusing on the learning process and collaborating with other disciplines, school libraries provide the entire school community with opportunities to acquire the information skills they need to interact responsibly in a global society. An ongoing desire to know, a love for reading and a respect for information will transform a student into a lifelong independent learner. The role of libraries in a democratic society is to embrace the social responsibility of learning.